



TRUST

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THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)

6 Geils Court
Deakin ACT 2600

NOVEMBER 1992

MEETINGS IN THE TRUST BOARDROOM

Monday 23 November 1992
Fund Raising Committee
Meeting at 5.30pm.

Wednesday 2 December 1992
Education and Cultural
Committee Meeting at 5.30 pm.

Thursday 3 December 1992
Council Meeting at 5.30 pm.

Tuesday 8 December 1992
Classification Committee
Meeting at 12.30 pm.

Thursday 4 February 1993
Executive Meeting at 5.30 pm.

Tuesday 9 February 1993
Classification Committee
Meeting at 12.30 pm.



**Please note that the
National Trust office
will be closed from 21
December 1992 to 4
January 1993.**

This will be the last edition of Trust News for 1992 so we would like to take this opportunity to wish A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS AND EVERYONE ASSOCIATED IN ANY WAY WITH THE TRUST.

EDITORIAL

In 1988 Australia celebrated 200 years of white settlement. Years punctuated by conflict with native Aborigines, the struggle to cultivate unyielding lands, discovery and growth, harmony and discord.

For better or for worse the Australian landscape has weathered the existence of European settlement. Since 1988 there has been a move by conservationist to "turn back the tide" and repair the 'damage' that white settlement has caused to the natural environment. Their motives are admirable and all attempts to preserve natural heritage should be supported. However, returning the environment to its natural state before white settlement would sacrifice one of the most valuable and accurate sources of history. We can't undo the changes caused by European settlement in the past but we can preserve it for future generations.

On a lighter note, I must tell you all that I am feeling a little unloved and very unappreciated. After a promising start, the letters to the editor dwindled to nothing. Does this mean I am talking to myself and nobody is reading the Trust News? Well in this edition you have the chance to redeem yourselves and participate in the first ever Trust News Readership Survey. This newsletter can only benefit from readers input, so please someone take five minutes and fill in the survey.

Corrigendum and Apology

In the August edition of the Trust News I had the pleasure of interviewing Mr Les and Mrs Dorothy Moore. Mr and Mrs Moore were not only extremely helpful but also quite modest. Mrs Moore didn't mention that she was one of the Trusts few honorary life members. The Trust awarded Mrs Moore this accolade for her services as a founder and as a volunteer. As I relative newcomer to the Trust I was unaware of Mrs Moore's position. My sincere apologies for this oversight.

Luisa Megale

This edition of Trust News has been typeset by *Ingenious Software. Pty Ltd.*
35 Carlile Street, Evatt, ACT. Ph: 2584858, Fax: 2585737

PO Box 3173
Manuka ACT 2603

ISSN 0727-9019

Telephone (06) 281 0711
Fax (06)285 3327

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NBH 2120

TITBITS

CHRISTMAS COCKTAIL PARTY

To be held at "Huntly" with the kind permission of Mr John Gale on Saturday 5 December 1992 from 5.30 pm. to 7.30 pm.

Cost: \$12 per person, which includes finger food, wine and orange juice.

The maximum number for the Christmas Cocktail Party is 100 so book now! Phone the Trust office on 2810711 to make bookings.

LANYON CAROLS

Candlelight Christmas Picnic to be held at Lanyon on Sunday 20 December 1992 from 5.30 pm.

Cost: \$10 per car load or \$3.00 adults, \$1.50 concession (this covers all entertainment and entry to Lanyon Homestead and the Nolan Gallery).

Bring your own picnic basket (or order from the Lanyon Cafe). Wander through the candlelit homestead. Enjoy the musical entertainment. Join in with carol singing led by Canberra personality and well known singer Colin Slater. Children can learn to make 19th century Christmas Decorations and decorate our tree. Special prizes for the most decorative picnic.

Enquiries: phone 2375136.

'REMBRANDT TO Renoir'

Australian National Gallery
14 November 1992-31st January 1993

European Masterpieces from The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

'MODERNISM IN PRINT'

Cooma Cottage presents 'Modernism in Print'. 1920's and 1930's Prints from the S.H. Ervin Gallery Collection.

On display at Cooma Cottage, Hume Highway, Yass (opposite the Barton Highway turn-off) from 7-29 November 1992.

Enquiries: Kim Nelson (06) 2261470.

AUSTRALIAN QUILT EXHIBITION AT COOMA COTTAGE

The Quilters Guild Inc. and the National Trust of Australia (NSW) present 'Australian Quilts' past present and future.

To be held at Cooma Cottage on the Hume Highway, Yass on Saturday 2 January to Monday 25 January 1993. Open daily 10.00 am-4.00 pm except Tuesday.

Enquiries: Kim Nelson (06) 2261470.

THE HERITAGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

The long awaited sequel/new version/up-to-date, definitive book on the ACT Heritage.

The book provides descriptions of more than 500 buildings, Aboriginal sites, areas of natural heritage value and significant trees.

Cost: \$25—a perfect Christmas gift. From the Giftshops or the Trust office



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FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Recognising the importance of the Trust's program of tours and walks in terms of members satisfaction and the wider dissemination of the Trust's values, the Council recently decided to take advantage of Garth Setchell's early retirement by agreeing to explore an expansion of the tours and walks program in such a way that both he and the Trust might benefit from the very considerable effort involved.

Although plans for the 1993 are as yet only in the preliminary planning stages, the Education and Cultural Committee recently agreed in principle to a number of Garth's proposals along with activities which the Committee itself will organise.

These, together with some known intentions of the Fund Raising Committee, are listed below so that you might start planning your spare time in 1993. Hopefully your intentions will be pencilled in your 1993 National Trust Desk Diary, now available from the Gift Shops.

FEBRUARY

20/21—Walks in the High Alps (self drive)

MARCH

12/15— ANTIQUE FAIR - Canberra Festival

13/15—National Parks of the Sapphire Coast (self drive)

20/21—House Inspections at Carcoar and Blayney (coach)

APRIL

18—Wineries Tour (coach)

24—HERITAGE WEEK BEGINS

25—Heritage Week Tour of Lanyon

MAY

2—HERITAGE WEEK ENDS

2—Heritage Week Autumn Garden Tour (coach)

10—Anniversary Dinner

19—New Members Night

22—Adelong Goldfield Tour (coach)

JUNE

6—The Corn Trail Walk (coach)

16—Slide Evening (repeat of the U.S. Slides)

26/27—Mid-winter Christmas at Jenolan Caves (coach)

From here on, the program is provisional only. If possible we will include some weekend coach tours that link with house inspections organised by the National Trust of Australia (NSW). Likely activities include:

JULY

—A Heritage Walk (possibly Yass or Queanbeyan)

—Old Parliament House revisited

—Film Evening at the National Film and Sound Archive

AUGUST

—CURRY DINNER

—Boronias of the Barren Ground (near Robertson)

—Antique Appreciation Course

SEPTEMBER

—FLORIADE AND TABLE SETTINGS EXHIBITION

—Historic tour of Goulburn

—A Spring Bushwalk

OCTOBER

—Spring Garden Tour

—Lake Burrunjuck Cruise/Wee Jasper

—New Members Night

NOVEMBER

—6 or 7 day coach tour to Victoria, including Wilsons Promontory

and, possibly, the Melbourne Cup

—Tharwa District Tour

DECEMBER

—CHRISTMAS COCKTAIL PARTY

QUOTABLE QUOTE

—In response to Richard Carlton
(60 Minutes)

"More than any other city, more than any other region, the nation's capital should represent the finest living environment which (the Country) can plan and build."

John F. Kennedy

NEW MEMBERS

The National Trust of Australia (ACT) extends a very warm welcome to the following new members. If any of our current members know these new members, perhaps you could encourage them to attend one of our activities.

Mr J Allen, O'Connor
Mr & Mrs W Holland, Melba
Mr & Mrs T Allen, Kaleen
Mrs D Hurdle, Wanniasa
Mr & Mrs E Badden, Kambah
Mr & Mrs M Jackson-Calway, Westo
Mr R Barge, Kambah
Ms C Jessop, Braddon
Mrs H Bell, O'Malley
Mrs P Jude, Hughes
Mr A Best, Mawson
Mr & Mrs R Kennelly, Curtin
Mr G Bull, Weston
Ms J Lawson, Griffith
Mrs S Cameron, Warramanga
Mr A Litchfield, Orange
Mrs V Carlson, Chapman
Mrs M Maxwell, Monash
Mr B Clarke, Canberra
Mr & Mrs J McCaffrey, Latham

Mr & Mrs D Comyn, Warramanga
Ms L Megale, Luddenham
Mr & Mrs K Cox, Garran
Mr & Mrs S Mitchell, Page
Mr & Mrs G Crocket, Yarralumla
Mrs T Muggleton, Warramanga
Mr & Mrs N Duncan, Deakin
Mr & Mrs R Packer, Fadden
Mr & Mrs J Durrell, Mawson
Mrs G Piper, Hawker
Mr & Mrs R Fitzgerald, Bringelly
Mr & Mrs R Richardson, Ainslie
Mr J Flannery, Hughes
Ms L Russel, Singleton
Ms V Gardner, Evatt
Mr N Sellars, Braddon
Mr & Mrs E Goudie, Ainslie
Miss S Stewart, Canberra
Dr N Griffiths, Red Hill
Mr W Tucker, Turner
Ms B Guernsey, O'Connor
Mr & Mrs R Wyatt, Evatt
Mrs J Haeusler, Lyneham North
Dr S Ymer, Turner
Ms L Young, Campbell

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BOOK REVIEWS

'Old Bungendore, Changing Times in an Australian Village'

by Graeme Barrow

Illustrations by Margaret Carr

Dagraja Press. Canberra, ACT.

64 pages. Softcover, \$15.00

Available at the National Trust Giftshops

'Old Bungendore, Changing Times in an Australian Village' by Graeme Barrow, is a wonderful book about the historic town situated only 40km east of Canberra. Bungendore is a delightful village that retains much of its historic charm, and this book is a must for all those who visit.

The book clearly captures the lively history of the town, its people and its buildings, and is complemented by Margaret Carr's beautiful artistry.

Katrina Barker

'The Heritage of the Australian Capital Territory'

by Rodney Garnett and Danielle Hyndes (editors)

Gonna Print. Canberra, ACT

146 pages. Softcover, \$25.00

Available at the National Trust Giftshops

To encourage awareness of classified items, the ACT branch of the National Trust and the ACT Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects have combined to produce *The Heritage of the Australian Capital Territory*.

The book provides descriptions of more than 500 sites; historic, natural and Aboriginal, which appear on the Trust's register. Locality details and photographs will enable readers to find most places easily.

Most Canberrans will be impressed by the great diversity in the cultural heritage of our region, which ranges over at least 20,000 years of human occupation, and the natural heritage revealed in mountains, slopes and plains whose origins may be traced over 500 million years.

This important contribution to the list of heritage publications has been supported by a grant from the Australian Heritage Commission under the National Estate Grants Program.

Robert Boden

'GOLD & WATER—A history of Sofala and the Turon Goldfield'

By Matthew Higgins.

Now in stock at the Trust Gift Shops for \$20.00

This is a very interesting and enjoyable book about an area not so far from Canberra—members will recall that Garth Setchell led a most entertaining tour to Hill End and Sofala last year.

Matthew Higgins quite obviously knows the area intimately (he says in his acknowledgements that he was first introduced to the Turon Valley at the age of ten) and has researched its history in great detail. The historical information, quotes and photographs are combined with a fluent literary style to produce a highly readable and entertaining book.

Apart from the (comparatively) "local" interest and its readability it contains some fascinating insights into the gold rush days of the last century (and the early part of this one). For example, did you know that there was, very nearly, a precursor to the Eureka Stockade at the Turon goldfield in 1853 over the price of the monthly miners licence (30 shillings at a time when a rural labourer earned 1 shilling). Mind you, there were some very rich finds in the district with average earnings at one point being reported as 10/- per day. The government took the protests seriously enough to send 32 armed troopers to the Turon field and there was the threat of a major clash between the troopers and an estimated gathering of 800 miners. Luckily the peacemakers prevailed. Eventually the miners protests bore fruit and the government of the day modified the licence regulations.

Looking at the area today it is hard to believe that in 1851 estimates of the population on the field went as high as 20,000—though a more probable figure is perhaps 10–12,000.

The book has a very detailed chapter on the Chinese diggers, although very little evidence of their activities remains on the ground.

Later chapters explore the history of the reef mining which it was hoped, would take over from the alluvial fields. Most of the reef miners seem to have been beaten, in the end, by rising water levels in the shafts.

The returns from the field eventually declined and in a chapter titled "Sluicing and Sowing" Matthew Higgins explores the process by which the miners, at first, eked out their mining earnings with agriculture and gradually the district changed to being predominantly dependant on farming for the livelihood of its people. There was a brief reprieve (Chapter 8) when dredge mining took over but by 1920 the Turon area's annual gold production had fallen to less than 400 ounces—a big change from the early days when there were reports of people

finding 200 ounces of gold in 3 days, 23 lbs in 3 weeks, and the three Hall brothers getting 40 lbs in a month! People still pan the area, and there are mines being worked but Sofala and the Turon depend much more on "gold" earned from farmers, tourists and the weekend fossickers than gold production.

An excellent book, highly recommended as a "good read".

M A Hodgkin

RECENT ACTIVITIES

The accompanying photographs serve to prove that not all Canberra residents hibernate in late Winter and early Spring.

In fact our three day August coach tour to Jervis Bay was blessed with almost perfect weather until a more characteristic cold front greeted us upon our return. Highlights of our Indian summer included a delightful lunch at Jasper's Brush, a prism to prism inspection of the fascinating lighthouse at Point Perpendicular, a calorie laden morning tea in the Wardroom of the Royal Australian

Naval College, a wonderfully informative ranger guided walk through the heathland behind Greenpatch and an absorbing insight into the Thorburn/Macgregor dynasty at Nowra's historic "Meroogal". Some of us even managed to kick up our heels at the Saturday night banquet at the Coolangatta Historic Village Resort.

Mysteries of the Near East was less fortunate. Despite what seemed like a reversion to mid Winter, our intrepid band of 52 stalwart inebriates soon warmed to the wine tasting at Lark Hill and



The Lark Hill Winery on the Mysteries of the Near East Tour

to a roasting log fire at the Carrington. This was almost enough to fortify us for the rigours of life on the former Bywong goldfield—a salutary reminder that today's trials and tribulations seem pale by comparison with those of our forebears. It was nonetheless nice to put such sobering thoughts aside as we enjoyed the warmth of Sandra Marcarthur-Onslow's delightful home at the conclusion of a day of many contrasts.

Although the response was disappointing, the 13 people who did participate in our Blue Mountains tour were treated to a display of horticultural brilliance that could hardly be excelled anywhere.

We were also treated to a most interesting tour of the Woodford Academy, which is in the process of being conserved by the Blue Mountains branch of the National Trust. Our medium sized coach proved ideal once again and we managed to achieve an almost perfect score this time for timeliness. Although we failed to completely cover costs on this occasion, the Jervis Bay and Blue Mountain tours have demonstrated the camaraderie that smaller group tours can produce—I mean, where else would you find Garth Setchell being beaten by two ladies at snooker!



Lunch at Woodford Academy

MURRUMBIDGEE WANDERINGS

It was billed as "14 km of great walking to explore the hidden beauties of the Murrumbidgee Valley". The walk lived up to expectations with the exception that it was actually a 16 km walk due to some minor deviations. Once again it was the fit and adventurous amongst the Trust membership who took advantage of the chance to explore some truly beautiful parts of the ACT.

The morning started out quite cold. As Bob Akhurst put it, "It was as cold as your mother-in-laws breath, the bush was white with frost". Despite the cold and the proximity

to the river, the intrepid walkers remained in good spirits; even considering that they had to walk across rivers bridged by only a narrow plank, cross barbed wire fences (although by a step ladder) and encountered a rather disgruntled feral pig! Usually it is these "special" moments that make trips like the Murrumbidgee Wanderings so popular.

More trips of this sort are planned for the future. Thanks again to Garth Setchell for organising another Trust tour.

Luisa Megale

CLASSIFICATION NEWS

The Trust Council, at its meeting of 1 October 1992, agreed to classify three brick sewer vents in Yarralumla and Weston; and to upgrade the Cuppacumbalong Cemetery from recorded to classified status and include in the classification the row of elms leading to the cemetery.

SEWER VENTS

These brick structures were built between 1917 and 1924.

The disposal of waste water and water borne waste was one of the early matters for resolution in the planning of Canberra, in view of its inland location in the world's driest continent. A variety of treatments was proposed, and there is evidence of conflict between W B Griffin, Federal Capital Director of Design and Construction, and the Department of Home Affairs.

In 1914, before a decision had been made on the method of treatment, the Department's engineers proceeded to design the main outfall sewer west bound from the Canberra Hotel, which was to be the point for intercepting sewers from the initial building development in the Federal Capital. Along its 4.8 kilometre length the tunnel was to pass under what is now Stirling Park, the Royal Canberra Golf Club, Lady Denman Drive and the Cotter Road at depths varying between 1.5 metres and 24 metres. The outfall was to be to a treatment works at Weston Creek, and the effluent would finally be discharged into the Molonglo River.

The sewer tunnel was to be egg-shaped in cross-section, 1.68 metres high and 1.12 metres wide, constructed of concrete and brick. Ventilator shafts would be provided at 1000 feet (300 metres) intervals, and were to be "of best galvanised iron vent pipe, as adopted in the sewerage systems of Sydney and Melbourne".

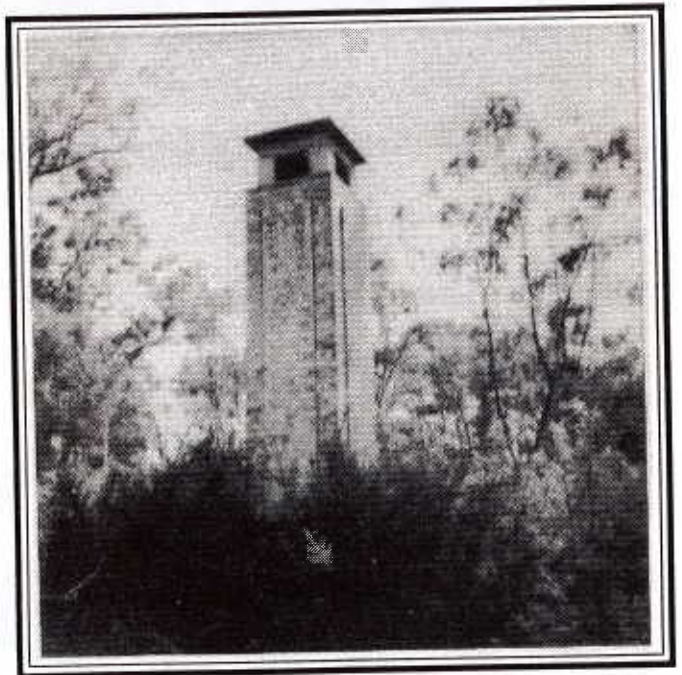
W B Griffin's alternative proposal for the installation of separate "septic tanks" in various parts of the developing city as the occasion required would have been an innovative approach for the time, but the 1915 Parliamentary Works Committee Report came down firmly in favour of the Department's proposal.

Construction proceeded until April 1917, when it was held up following a report of the Royal Commission investigating Canberra's

administration. Work recommenced in 1922 and the tunnel was completed in 1924.

At some time during construction, a change was made to the proposed ventilation, eliminating the necessity to buy in the metal piping and substituting brick shafts. No doubt this decision took into account the availability of bricks from the Commonwealth Brickworks nearby, and the Departmental workmen already on site for the tunnel lining. Only 3 ventilator shafts were provided in contrast to the expectation of at least 17 from the information provided to the Parliamentary Works Committee in 1915.

The Main Outfall Sewer, estimated to cost \$75,000 in 1914 and designed to serve a population of 125,000 has been supplemented by other mains as the network of suburbs expanded and new towns such as Woden and Tuggeranong came into being. The Weston Creek Treatment works overloaded and in the early 1970's, the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre was designed, with capacity to treat all of Canberra's sewage, and produce an environmentally acceptable effluent for discharge into the Murrumbidgee River. Construction was completed in 1978, and the Weston Creek Plant was closed, and all sewage previously treated there diverted to the LMWQCC via a new interceptor sewer.



Sewer Ventilation Shaft

The 1920's Main Outfall Sewer is still in use but has become a part of a very much expanded sewerage system. Although it is now only part of a large complex network, its significance is that it provided part of the infrastructure which had to be in place before the first steps could be taken towards the realisation of the plan for the Federal Capital.

The 3 brick ventilation shafts provide a visual indication of the location of the 1920's Main Outfall Sewer.

THE CUPPACUMBALONG CEMETERY

The Cemetery, one of very few intact nineteenth century cemeteries situated on formerly isolated pastoral holdings, is significant because of its historical link with the early settlement of the Tharwa area and with significant figures in the area's history. Its unusual construction and the avenue of elms leading to the site are also of importance.

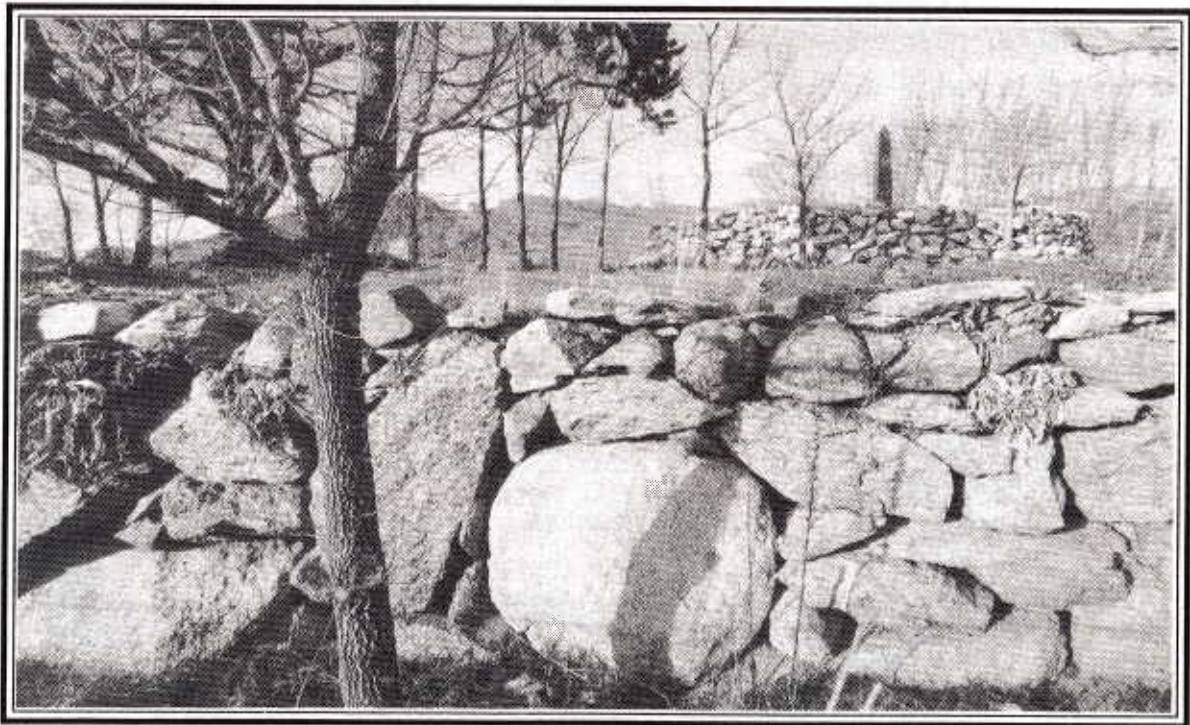
The Cuppacumbalong property, near the village of Tharwa, was first settled by James Wright formerly of Lanyon. Wright sold to Leopold Fane de Salis in 1855. In 1876 Leopold's second son, Rudolph, was buried on the site of the Cuppacumbalong Cemetery after his death from typhoid fever. The gravesite

was selected simply because it was a favourite spot of Rudolph. The site chosen proved to be difficult, consisting largely of decomposing granite which was almost impossible to excavate.

It was not until the death of Charlotte, Leopold's wife, on 9 February 1878 that work commenced on the cemetery as it presently exists. Stones hauled from Mount Tennant by Thomas Tong over a period of ten months created the elliptical outer wall, and soil was obtained from the river to create the distinctive cemetery mound about 20 x 15 metres in area. Plantings of trees, shrubs and flowers within the mound area created a setting for the graves. Plantings of elms (*Ulmus procera*) provided a visual link between the cemetery and the homestead.

The plot is on the spurline overlooking the confluence of the Murrumbidgee and Gudgenby rivers and has an attractive avenue of elms making the way towards Cuppacumbalong. Little trace of the original plantings remain, though some of the elms immediately to the north of the cemetery, as well as a single juniper (*Juniperus sabina*) within the mound area itself, have survived.

The cemetery contains 16 graves; 6 members of the de Salis family and 10 others including station



Cuppacumbalong Cemetery (De Salis Graves)

workers and their families with long standing associations with the area, as well as a small number of convicts who had worked for Cuppacumbalong's original owner, James Wright.

Leopold de Salis died at Lambrigg in 1898 and his daughter and son-in-law erected the present monument to his memory on the Lambrigg property. However, even though Cuppacumbalong had been sold by then, Leopold was buried at the old family cemetery at Cuppacumbalong.

The graves of four immediate de Salis family members were enclosed within an inner circular wall of Michelago marble which was erected at the end of the nineteenth century at the western side of the Cemetery. The de Salis headstone is a polished granite obelisk, made by a well-known Sydney mason, J Cunningham, and delivered by rail toward the end of 1899. George de Salis arranged for its collection from the Tuggeranong siding in January 1900 and supervised the erection of the headstone at the cemetery, marking the graves of three generations of his family. The

ornate Calvary cross at the grave of Charlotte's sister and her husband, H C Jeffreys, and the plain headstone paid for by George de Salis for longstanding station employee, James Gray, were also made by Cunningham of Sydney. The Jeffreys' burial plot, also on the west, is surrounded by an iron railing.

The employees are buried in a row on the eastern side.

The simple sandstone Edlington monumental stone was made by local Queanbeyan mason, R W Horton, around 1904. The last known burial was in 1905, when Elisa Edlington was interred alongside her son and grandchildren at the Cemetery.

The site has deteriorated significantly since 1970 and conservation work is required. A conservation plan was commissioned for the site and some work was undertaken. In 1988 a walking track was constructed which gives public access to the site.

Cuppacumbalong Cemetery is now administered by the ACT Government through its Parks and Conservation Service.

The season of giving is around the corner. So give a gift that will last all year.

A National Trust Gift Membership

Attractively presented in a gift folder, gift memberships are available for the regular membership fee and a \$2 handling charge. Gift memberships are ideal for Christmas and birthdays especially if the receiver intends to travel locally or abroad.

Available from:

*National Trust Office
6 Geils Crt
Deakin ACT 2600
(06) 281 0711*

Note: Yearly memberships to the Trust run from July 1 to June 30. Half year memberships are available.



EXHIBITION OF TRADITIONAL & FESTIVE TABLE SETTINGS

A very happy and rewarding function at St John's Reid Church Hall and in conjunction with St John's Conservation Foundation, held from the evening of Friday, September 25th until 4:00pm on Sunday, September 27th, 1992.

Taking part were the: Embassies of Chile, Ireland, Italy, Russia and the United States; The High Commission of India; Mrs C Archer; Mr & Mrs J Gullett; Mrs Lanie Lawson (Lanyon); Mrs N Whitelaw; Michael and Jillian Jones (Manuka Antiques); The Avenue Antiques; "Flair"; Virginia West (Alpine Everlasting Craft) and Christine Guida (early American Christmas). Also a display of the Heritage China owned by the National Trust.

From this list it can be well imagined what a variety of colours, styles and materials met the eye, together with much that was of great value.

The Indian setting, which used the floor as the base was a perfect replica, in wonderful Eastern colours, of long standing Indian mealtime rituals. Much time and labour was given to the preparation, particularly to the arranging of the floral design on the floor.

The Irish table displayed, with great artistry, all that is beautiful from Eire—Waterford Crystal, Irish table linen, Irish wine and even the green floral arrangement contained Irish Bell flowers.

The U.S.A. table was set with gold-edged china (the edging displaying the Stars and Stripes within the gold). There were exquisite menu-holders in the

form of oriental figures in finely wrought silver and beautiful cutlery and napery—an impressive display.

Italy's table was flamboyant with large Majolica dishes and bowls epitomising the exuberance of the Italian way of life.

Russia with its traditional samovar and tea settings was colourful and traditional.

Chile—another attractive small table displaying pretty traditional china.

Manuka Antiques displayed antiques for the period 1870-1920 with an international leaning—Vienna coffee set, English silver cake basket and Berlin coffee cups.

The Avenue Antiques presented a Farmhouse setting—a sturdy table was laid with blue and white china, blue and white serviettes and wine glasses of a generous size.

The table provided by Mr & Mrs J Gullett displayed monogrammed cutlery presented by Prime Minister Billy Hughes. The china was exquisite, as were the glasses; altogether a reminder of gracious living.

Charlotte Archer's table conjured up a leisurely afternoon tea tete-a-tete, with delicate china and napery. We were even shown what would be served—delicate sandwiches and scones and a diminutive spongecake.

Nan Whitelaw presented a charming setting with which to start the day—again with lovely silver and pretty china.

continued next page...



Flair's clever design of blue and yellow china and tablecloth, a delightful pair of library steps and a draped chair was all in the name of the French artist, Monet—controlled imagination!

Lanie Lawson showed us part of the large and colourful teatime setting from Lanyon's drawing room. So typical of the mid-Victorian era when sugar basins were almost the size of mixing bowls (did they really use that much sugar?). A table and chairs completed this picture of "Tea at the Homestead".

Virginia West gave us a setting of great delicacy, using dried alpine everlasting flowers to decorate the table mats, the candle holders, etc., creating a "fairy" feeling.

Carol Guida's Early American Christmas setting gave us a stand draped with tiny lights and a holly garland. Taking pride of place was a Teddy Bear ensconced in a high chair of great age. Other delights for children were scattered on a table which entranced adults as well.

What do I say about the Heritage China which was given to the National Trust in 1988 by its creator, Mrs Jean Hill, other than to emphasise what delight and interest it gave to the public who were able to see, for the first time in Canberra, a section of this blue and white china set comprising 94 pieces.

This great endeavour was hand painted over a period of approximately ten years for Mrs Hill's daughter, Margaret. It depicts scenes in NSW which had some connection with the descendants of John Lees who came to Australia in the Second Fleet and was the founder of the first Methodist Church in Australia. Mrs Hill also used fence spearheads, mail boxes, iron spikes, cast iron edges, door handles, fretwork friezes as decoration on a variety of the smaller pieces—how inventive!

Mrs Hill compiled two illustrated books and a number of catalogues which give detailed information about the Heritage china. These were much appreciated by the people who examined the display.

Both Mollie Fitzhardinge and Karen Lochhead are to be congratulated in making such a success of this Exhibition, mainly as a result of their personal contact with the various participants.

We had a very happy partnership with members of the St John's Church, Reid and with expenses cleared we both found we had \$802.27 for our respective funds. (There was no charge for the hire of the hall and

other amenities and Ailsa Curtis and helpers provided tea and slice for the public (and the workers!).

We were delighted that the Reverend Jack Leonard opened the Exhibition on the Friday evening, Phyllis Montgomerie (with helpers) provided and served the finger food and the male volunteers dealt with the wine. A very well attended and pleasant start to the Exhibition

JOAN ROWSELL

Through Trust News I would like to thank the members who have served on the Fund Raising Committee over the past four years for their support and offers of help when a call went out for "volunteers"! I would also wish to thank the "fringe benefits"—those Trust members who can be called upon for specific tasks, when particular functions need more hands. A splendid team spirit has made light of problems and hard work has been performed most willingly.

BE READY FOR FUTURE FUNCTIONS—THE TRUST NEEDS YOU AND MORE MEMBERS to come running when the call goes out!

JOAN ROWSELL

(Retiring Chairperson of the Fund Raising Committee)

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RESTORATION

RESTORING DAMAGED ARTWORKS. A VITAL PART OF MAINTAINING OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE.

When the River Arno burst its banks and devastated the art treasures of Florence, a new era in conservation and restoration began. So great was the concern around the world that conservators flocked to the city and, in the years it took to restore many of the priceless paintings and manuscripts, much was learnt - more importantly new techniques were developed. Florence, 1966 was the catalyst for the approach, methods and materials of today's conservators.

For the last thirteen years the University of Canberra has run a degree course in the discipline. Before then it was confined to in-house training at institutions. "The Art Gallery of NSW started it off", says Tony Chadwick of Conservation Art and Library Services, based in Leichhardt, NSW. "Their conservator, Bill Boustead, (now retired), who went to Florence, trained several leading people.

"Conservators can get anything restored" says Tony "It covers all organic and inorganic materials. The Maritime Museum has boats, the Australian Museum has dinosaurs, the Applied Arts and Sciences has planes, trains, engines. Everything man makes is an expression of creativity."

Tony and partner Rosemary Peel limit themselves to paintings and paper. Tony concentrates on oil paintings; Rosemary leans towards water colours, drawings and prints. Both more or less fell into the job. Now, well respected for their knowledge in the field, they handle a constant stream of disasters from such sources as the CSIRO, art galleries around Australia, museums and private collections.

"We aim to preserve the material on which our cultural heritage has been recorded. If it's falling apart through age or chemical problems, we try and correct them." Many pictures arrive in an appalling condition, Tony says. "We get anything from paintings left in a chicken coop for a number of years (you can imagine what they are like), to a Hokusai woodblock print left under a house in an inner-city suburb for a year or more, wrapped in brown paper. It was covered in mould and almost destroyed. We were able to remove most of the dirt and mould and with careful hand-cleaning it was restored and ended up looking really good."

"Artists, should be more aware about the conservation aspects of their work if they want it to survive. Many of the big names are aware of conservation and use high quality materials, because they can afford to. But the younger or unestablished artists are often, through economic necessity, forced to paint on composite board such as Masonite". The secret to longevity is the materials used and how they are looked after.

Today's restorers aim to preserve the cultural and historical integrity of works by their methods and approach. To change the image from the limitations imposed by the artists is unethical. "We've seen plenty of restorations that have ended up being as noticeable as the damage, because the restoration work has also deteriorated", says Tony.

Tony and Rosemary offer the following advice about restoring art works. Don't try to do repairs yourself. Contact one of the institutions for advice: an art gallery for advice about painting; a museum for advice about ethnographic material: the State Archives for help with archival material: or Conservation Art and Library Services. It's also a good idea to photograph the article, in colour, first.

Adapted courtesy of Vogue Living

August 1983



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A QUESTION OF VALUE

What is the value in the natural environment? "Everything", you might say, "since all is a part of the web of life; everything animate or inanimate is interwoven and a unity".

What is the value of changes and additions made to the natural environment by human activity? This is the difficult question.

Some people see value in old buildings only if they are still pleasing to the eye. Others see value in old buildings because of their design, the use of old building techniques or their usefulness as a shelter. What then is the value of the much older stone tool worksites, axe sharpening grooves, stone and ochre quarries, rock art sites, stone arrangements and carved trees which tell of the culture which once encompassed all Australia?

What is valuable as an asset is an interesting question which has arisen in recent months regarding all human-made sites in Namadgi National Park. The official list of assets in the park only includes the buildings to be maintained, that is the toilet blocks, buildings for storage, information

centres but does not include the old homesteads, huts and Aboriginal places. These last categories are only 'site listed' with no understood essential element of maintenance being involved.

This would seem to be a dangerous situation as has been witnessed of late when a building and a rock site were removed because they were not considered to be assets and were only recorded on an impermanent computer database.

All things in Namadgi (except feral plants and animals) are of value—are an asset—as they show future generations what the natural landscape/environment was like and what changes the Aboriginal people made with their culture, how European settlers farmed and built in the 19th and 20th centuries and finally how this area was set aside to keep all these valuable examples intact.

Fiona MacDonald Brand

Courtesy NPA Bulletin
Vol. 29 Number 3

EXOTICS IN NATIONAL PARKS

Willows are familiar, beautiful trees in all seasons, planted in Australia by the European settlers along with other deciduous trees to remind the homesick of their homelands. The weeping willow—*Salicacae salix babylonica*—is a native tree of Central Asia and its beauty is extolled in many Asian poems.

In Australia willows were planted along creeks and rivers once the native casuarinas, teatree, river gums or eucalypts had been removed. They grew relatively easily from cuttings in the moist soil of the river banks and, in time, the roots held the banks when the floods came. However, they also sent roots into the soil of the stream beds thus sometimes choking the stream and causing more frequent flooding. This has occurred in the Molonglo River near Oaks Estate and willow trees have been removed to lessen the flood depths and destruction.

Out in the countryside of the ACT, willows have replaced the native flora along many streams and, especially in autumn, make a great show. In Namadgi National Park they are found along the

Gudgenby, Orroral, Cotter and other streams wherever Europeans settled and farmed.

The question arises, should they be removed and replaced with native trees or left as a reminder of farming settlement and activities in the area? Replacement would have to be carefully done as the stream banks cannot be left bare whilst one species goes and another becomes established. Information received from both the ACT and NSW conservation services is that willows in the right place do a wonderful job at bank strengthening and now have become part of the Australian scene. However, they are not the native trees that originally held the banks and form a different habitat to the original species.

Should they stay or should they go? A question to ponder.

Fiona MacDonald Brand

Courtesy NPA Bulletin
Vol. 29 Number 3

GREEN INVESTMENT GUIDE

The Environmental Investment Directory of Australia is a 100 page guide to 93 investments that can help the environment. The companies and funds in EIDA '92 are engaged in:

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DECORATION, COLOUR & RESPECTABILITY IN THE 1880'S

Respectable subjects of Queen Victoria, in Australia in the 1880s, were as prone as any other Victorians to take the high moral ground about most things, and the decoration of their houses was no exception. A house might be adorned with taste and skill and the fruits of wealth, or a house might be such a poor thing that even "taste for its arrangement" might be wanting. In either case the significant element was not the decorative effect. It was the mistress of the house who made the difference. Any house would be but "a cold shadow of a home" without the presiding presence of a "true woman". It was the "subtle, indefinable charm of "true womanliness" which gave the house charm and warmth and delight.

This kind of expression of proper sentiment represents one kind of writing about houses in the 1880s. The other side of the coin was a body of writing which advised, usually in minute detail, on the decoration

and furnishing of the house so that it would be fashionable or tasteful; or so that it would give an effect of warmth or comfort; or cheerfulness or harmony; or so that it would reflect the owner's respectability or success or status; or some or all of the above. The reader might be advised that "White, for walls, looks common and cold". The amateur decorator might be taught how to do stencilling or be given a colour scheme for his room: for example, pale blue or green walls with a ceiling of pale buff made up by mixing whiting and deep chrome yellow. This was felt to be good for "ordinary adoption" since it was neither vulgar nor sombre. The housewife might be told how to construct a Cosy Corner in her drawing room and the best way to decorate it with enamel paints and cretonnes.

These two approaches to the house exemplify the double edged approach to the life of the respectable middle class Victorian: the practice, clearly explained

and down to earth, with detail spelt out and rules firmly established; and the spirit, with its ideals and sermons and conventions and sentiments. Indeed the two come together in the house. It was a material thing: papered, panelled and polished; furnished, ornamented and equipped. It was a symbol, amidst the social mobility of the 1880s, of the success of the master of the house and of his respectability and the respectability of his family. It represented the role of the mistress. In a sense it was the mirror into which she looked to measure herself against the ideal described in the literature.

One implication of this for the decoration of the Australian house of the time was the degree to which it encouraged conformity, especially for the less affluent of the middle class. The aim was to conform to the prevailing fashion in style, colour, furniture and ornaments in accordance with the function of the room. Much of the instructive literature referred to earlier was directed to helping those who needed to copy the prevailing styles with a minimum of financial outlay. In the 1880s this conferred status in much the same way as the acquisition of possessions such as the video recorder, the microwave and the personal computer conferred status in the 1980s, although it is questionable that respectability was so important a part of status in the latter period.

The basic colours used were the secondaries: greens, plums, oranges, ochres, terracotta and browns, and the tertiaries: russet, citrine and olive. These were set off with touches of brighter colours and with gilt. Colours and patterns were very important and very carefully planned. There was a clear sense of the importance of harmonising colours and planning the whole tone of the room. The walls, ceilings, doors, carpets, cushions, curtains, pictures, ornaments, mantel, fender and firescreens are all seen in relation to one another.

In each of the main reception areas of the house colours were used to convey a particular impression or mood according to the nature of the room.

The drawing room was often said to be the most important room in the house because it was where people were most often received, and if the woman was the centre of the house then the drawing room was a reflection of her. It had to be feminine, soft, harmonious, light or, for those of

more modest means, the nicest and prettiest room in the house. Colours were soft: greys, gentle blues, gold and touches of cream or sometimes rose or salmon pink. These were continued in fabrics and carpets which were often pastels. Patterns of wallpaper or stencilling on walls were often pastels. Patterns of wallpaper or stencilling on walls or ceiling or both tended to be floral or birds. The floral motifs could be continued in the plaster mouldings. Gilt was popular sometimes on picture frames and furniture as well as on cornices. The piano might be walnut as might some of the furniture. Cedar was frequently used for skirtings and architraves.

In contrast the dining room was the man's room where he sat at the head of the table and acted the host. The dining room aimed to be impressive, to feel dignified or, if you were wealthy, grand. It reflected the host's position, his success and his ability to provide well. To create this kind of atmosphere dining room colours tended to be warm: russets, rich browns and ochres. These would be offset with lots of gold. Greens might sometimes be used. An important feature of the dining room would be the mantelpiece which was usually of a dark marble or a marbled design. The dining table might be of mahogany, the chairs covered in morocco leather.

The entrance hall was important because it gave visitors their first impression of the house. It should welcome, perhaps impress, but it should be a foil for the main reception rooms. It must not compete. Colours were generally russets, reds or terracotta or greens. The idea was to provide the quiet warmth of welcome or gentle relief from the sun. The ceiling might well be buff or a soft blue depending on the colour scheme. Ferns or palms were recommended decoration in the hall.

It should be noted, of course, that the styles followed by the middle classes in Australia in the 1880s were mid-Victorian. There was a time lag.

Planning colour and decoration to make a very clearly thought-out impression was also a feature of public buildings: for example, the new Queensland National Bank, opened on the corner of Queen and Creek Streets, Brisbane in 1884. "No ordinary mortal will dare to enter the sacred precincts of the palace of cash with less than a 10

pound cheque in his pocket and its very magnificence will prevent a humble minded man from having the audacity to open his modest account here", wrote the reporter from the Brisbane Courier. He was selling the elements of respectability associated with the bank: richness and power.

The visitor first enters the vestibule where the floor is of black and white marble bordered with a smaller pattern of black and red. The roof is arched with coffered panels, delicately tinted and decorated with rich ornamental work heavily gilded on crimson background. The panelled walls are painted a light salmon with mouldings picked out in crimson and gold. It is rich, grand, magnificently respectable and calculated to impress. However, it is only a prelude to the splendour of the banking room. Again there is the crimson and gold and black and white marble in addition there are six brass chandeliers in gold and ormolu, polished cedar desks with brass fittings and a curved and polished cedar counter. But the grandest feature of the room is the dome, panelled, tinted and ornamented in crimson and gold with doric columns also picked out with gold. Beneath the dome "light streams on the toilets below from stained glass panes with ornamental devices from the lantern in rays chiefly of violet and crimson". The man from the Brisbane Courier recorded his response: "One feels on entering it a sensation of awe ... and an almost irresistible inclination to take off one's hat".

*Faye Schutt**

NOTE

Quotations used are from:

- The Brisbane Courier, August 1885
- Mrs Beeton's All About Etiquette, 1881
- The Thrift Book, 1881
- The Girl's Own Annual, 1881

*Faye Schutt is a freelance writer.



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SURVIVING SCHOOL VISITS

In 1993, visits to historic sites will become mandatory to the NSW schools syllabus. Something like 100 hours will be devoted to Australian history.

The ACT is developing a similar program and properties like Lanyon and Calthorpes House are already well equipped to deal with school groups.

"Surviving School Visits" was a seminar devised by the NSW National Trust to educate their staff and volunteers in creating novel and exciting school's programs to cope with this emphasis - quite honestly to ensure we didn't miss the boat.

Historic Houses Trust of NSW was host to many of the activities and the whole week was an excellent opportunity to put names to faces and generally swap ideas.

For my part I was delighted to form a friendship with Margaret Fleming who has done so much

already to bring schools to the properties of Lanyon and Calthorpes. Between Margaret, myself and Jane Lyons of Riversdale (Goulburn) we made a firm decision to create programs distinctly different enough from each other so as schools in the region would consider it worthwhile attending all four.

The seminar was inspiring and I hope to maintain that inspiration throughout next year.

As always staffing is a problem and here at Cooma Cottage I am "it"! So I would be very keen to hear from anybody who feels they could lend some assistance to our particular program.

Cheers,

Kim Nelson

MANAGER, COOMA COTTAGE

PRODUCT NEWS—GIFT SHOPS

Shopping for Christmas gifts can sometimes be a trying chore. Especially, those gifts which have to be posted to long distance friends or relatives. Recognising this, the National Trust gift shops at Manuka and Lanyon have restocked their shelves with ideal Christmas gifts; gifts which are Australian in theme as well as being "easy travellers" when posted. The latest additions to the shelves include:

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- ❖ Heritage of the Australian Capital Territory, the new ACT Trust publication edited by Rodney Gamett and Danielle Hyndes (See Book Reviews). A perfect gift for any resident or visitor to the ACT \$25
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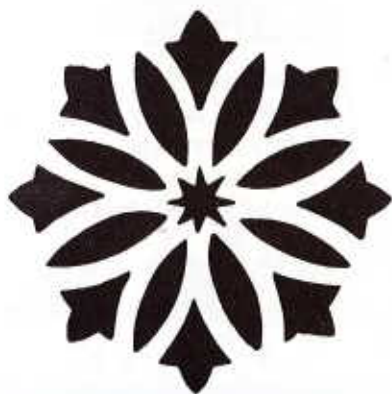
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All pages must be numbered and the machine must be operated by National Trust staff.

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The closing date for copy is Friday of the first week of the month of publication.

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The book provides descriptions of more than 500 buildings, Aboriginal sites, areas of natural heritage value and significant trees which appear on the Registers of the Trust, the Institute and the Commission.

The publication was supported by a grant under the National Estate Grants Program.

This book would be a perfect Christmas gift for any ACT resident or visitor, offering the reader the opportunity to visit and explore the local history. It is very clearly written and set out and would also be a great gift for anyone visiting, or intending to visit the Territory.

At \$25 from the Trust Gift shops or the Trust office, it's a bargain solution to at least one member of your Christmas present list.

MASTERWORKS OF MAN AND NATURE: PRESERVING OUR WORLD HERITAGE

This is a reference book for the World Heritage List of 360 natural and cultural sites in 80 countries around the world. The publication has been endorsed by Dr Martin Holdgate, Director General of the IUCN (the World Conservation Union).

It is a very handsome hardback book, 305 mm by 230 mm, with over 400 colour photographs plus essays written by prominent writers, statespersons and conservationists.

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